

## **Meeting Record**

MPO Technical Committee Meeting  
Tuesday, October 9, 2001  
City/County Building, Room 113  
Lincoln, Nebraska

**MEMBERS AND OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:** A. Abbott, D. Thomas, Jim Visger (representing R. Figard), M. Wullschleger, S. Andersen (representing Ken Sieckmeyer), R. Dooley (representing R. Peters), L. Worth, V. Singh, Liz Wunderlich (representing Eldon Poppe), R. Thorson

**OTHERS:** Ron Schlautman, Terry Gibson, Steve McBeth (NDOR), J. Snowdon, (FHWA), Kent Morgan, Mike Brienzo, (Planning), Charles Riley (Health), Brian Praeuner (StarTran) and Karen Sieckmeyer (Public Works/Utilities)

### **STATED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING:**

Technical Committee Meeting

Allan Abbott called the meeting to order.

#### ***Agenda Item No. 1 - Review and action on the draft minutes of the June 29, 2001 Technical Committee Meeting***

Mark Wullschleger moved to approve the June 29, 2001 minutes, seconded by Andersen. Motion carried unanimously.

#### ***Agenda Item No. 2 - Update on the City of Lincoln and Lancaster County planning activities in the formulation of the New Lincoln-Lancaster Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Plan.***

Kent Morgan gave a quick review of where the Planning Department is in the process and where they are expected to go with the Comprehensive Plan. This is a one year process that began in January of this year and hopefully is completed by the end of January 2002 when they will have a *draft Comprehensive Plan* which will include the Long Range Transportation Planning. The committee has narrowed down the general land use parameters and they are in the process of defining those parameters. You should have received a copy of the newsletter. This newsletter will give you some idea of where the Comprehensive Plan Committee is relative to the land use plan.

Kent handed out information and discussed some upcoming key target dates.

One thing that Kent needs from the Technical Committee is volunteers for a subcommittee group to help work through the details of the long range transportation plan. He would like a mix of City,

State and Federal people. The subcommittee would meet the next six to eight weeks as they move forward to the December 7, 2001 deadline.

Allan mentioned that he would like someone from the Federal Highway, City, County and State to be on the committee. The following people volunteered for that committee: John Snowdon, Ron Schlautman, Don Thomas, Rick Thorson, Virendra Singh, Kent Morgan and Mike Brienzo.

***Item 3 - Status of the Nebraska Department of Roads Transportation Studies and Highway Improvement Projects within Lincoln and Lancaster County.***

Terry Gibson covered the interstate expansion around the Lincoln area - NW 56<sup>th</sup> through the Waverly interchange. Terry showed a color coded map that gave details on when construction will begin and a chart that shows the project schedules. The present project that the State is proposing is a 28' median with a raised concrete barrier from US West interchange through the Airport Interchange and through 14<sup>th</sup> Street Bridge where it will widen out to a 76-foot median.

The question arose regarding sound barriers around the neighborhoods. Terry explained that there are two sites they are looking at between the Airport Interchange and I-180. Allan Abbott said there had been a couple of discussions regarding what the walls are made of and how they would look. The other issue we need to deal with when considering noise walls is that as the Department of Roads develops the noise contours, the new development needs to be compatible with the projected noise levels. Terry mentioned that the District would be putting out a public relations campaign out on all lane closures during construction.

Steve McBeth updated the committee on several projects:

US 34 West - widening to 4 lanes

US 34 East - widening to 4 lanes

US6, West "O" Street to Cornhusker Hwy (SunValley Blvd.) is under study for a 4-lane roadway.

Allan Abbott asked when they plan to construct the US 34 and US 6 projects. Steve McBeth said that it was in their 2008 and beyond program. The time frame beyond their five year program is vague. The Lincoln US 34 West Project is in 2005.

US 77 South, Saltillo Road to I-80 Study. Steve said there is corridor study beginning and the Department of Roads is in the process of negotiating with an consultant to do the study.

US 6 West - widening to 4 lanes. Ron Schlautman said that this project is currently in the TIP for 2007.

Neb 79 - reconstruction. The alignment will be shifted about 10 - 20 feet to the east to stay away from impacts to the farmland. This project will have major reconstruction with two lane resurfaced shoulders. It is in the TIP for 2005.

***Item No. 4 Status of the joint City of Lincoln and Nebraska Department of Roads Highway Improvement Projects within Lincoln.***

Jim Visger stated that the East "O" Street (US 34) project extends from 52<sup>nd</sup> to 72<sup>nd</sup> Street with some work in both Cotner Blvd. and 56<sup>th</sup> Street making them a one way pair. A pre-bidders conference will be held on October 23, 2001 in the Highway Commission meeting room. A November 8<sup>th</sup> bid is anticipated with construction to start on non-pavement work on January 7, 2002. Paving work would begin on March 18, 2002 and would extend through October 19, 2002. This time frame is for the first phase which is from approximately 52<sup>nd</sup> to Eastridge Drive. The following year, we will use the same benchmarks as the first phase. Each of these sections have some critical parts to them that must be completed before they can move on to other items. Public Works continues to meet with the utilities to monitor how work will proceed. The landscaping portion of the project was pulled to be let at a later time since that portion of the work is not related to paving. The landscaping portion should be let within a year. Jim mentioned that there are a couple of innovative things being done with this project. The use of digital signs to identify for the public the street closures and two hand held camera systems for incident management and daily traffic control. These will be installed at approximately 48<sup>th</sup> and 56<sup>th</sup> Streets. Jim explained that they will be running one lane in each direction with a left turn available at the major intersections just during the construction phase. As the project is completed, there will be no left turns at either 56<sup>th</sup> or Cotner Blvd. They are also planning on getting pamphlets to motels and hotels so we can let people know how to get around. Jim also mentioned that there would be a "black-out" for the Thanksgiving holiday. The contractor will not be allowed to work from the Saturday preceding the Thanksgiving week through the Sunday night after Thanksgiving. Any work after that will just be lane closures.

Before closing the meeting, Allan Abbott emphasized that those serving on the subcommittee will be meeting soon. It is going to be necessary to meet a few times in order to keep the Technical Committee advised and to get input into the Comprehensive Plan. The area for the Department of Roads, the US 77 South, Saltillo Road to I-80, is going to be a key portion in what happens with the Comprehensive Plan so there will need to be some discussion even though the consultant may not have gotten into a lot of detail. That is going to be a key portion of the Comprehensive Plan in order to determine what is going to happen on the Southwest side of Lincoln.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.